

## Putting our Hand to the Plow, Part 1

**Baruch** – I'm thankful for what we talked about last night. Israel fell away and the first church fell away, but what's written about it is for our instruction. The ways we think about the past can trip us up. The first Edah was the stone starting to be hewn out of the mountain; they were never able to gain momentum because they weren't able to forgive one another. They looked back in the mirror. They got stuck. But if we do what it says in Phil 3:12 – "*forgetting what lies behind...then we will be what our Father wants us to be.*"

**Sabra** – If we look we're sure to fall. Our Master's blood covers us and makes us want to change. We grow gradually in strength like Shimshone did. He was a dedicated child, but most of us weren't. But we can become like him by making a vow and keeping it.

Lk 9:62 – "*No one [not even one single person] having put his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.*" We've all put our hands to the plow, haven't we? If we look back we'll be destroyed. It's like when you plant a garden – if you look back the rows won't be straight. If we do we aren't fit for the kingdom. How are we made fit? We are being made compatible for our King. We are going somewhere. We're cultivating the field and we'll have a great harvest. If we're not some of us will get to the gate someday and He won't say, "*Well done, good and faithful servant.*" He'll say, "*You can't enter the kingdom.*" You'll have to be outside for 1,000 years in death. Then we'll remember Lk 9:62 and say, "*I must have looked back.*" He said, "*Follow me,*" but one said, "*Let me first go bury my father.*" And another said, "*Let me first say good-bye to those in my household.*" But our Master said, "*Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and preach the kingdom of God.*"

Our Master said in Mt 18:3 – "*Unless you are converted and become like a little child, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.*" If we're not converted first there's no way we can become like a little child. Sometimes we can observe some who haven't become like little children. They get offended and have regret. A well-trained disciple is humble like a child. A person can be converted and yet not be like a little child. But he won't enter the kingdom. A person can't be a leader in the Body unless he is first like a little child. We won't enter the kingdom unless we are first converted and go through the transition of becoming like a little child. We have to analyze and evaluate ourselves to see whether we are or not. There's *no way* we'll enter the kingdom unless we become like a little child.

**Keli** – A well-trained horse will go straight if he is commanded by the one leading the plow. You have to command the horse. You are in control.

**Yowceph** – You have to pay attention like what we've been hearing about. If you are distracted from what you are doing it will lead you off.

It happened to old Israel. Rom 11:20 – "... *Do not be haughty, but fear.*" Old Israel went off and their branches were broken off. Verse 22 – "*Behold the kindness and severity of God.*" The Roman Catholic Church today reads this and they don't think whatsoever that they've been cut off. We have to fear or we can be cut off too, if we look back like the rest of them did.

**Yoshiyah** – You can read about what happened to Lot's wife. She looked back and she turned into a pillar of salt. She put her hands to the plow, but something in her was drawn to look back and she was disqualified. That's why we have to burn our bridges behind us. So when it says in Lk 17:32 – "*Remember Lot's wife...*" it's a warning to us.

**Kharash** – There's a "looking back" where a person's heart is caught up in the moment, in a certain household they lived in, or when they were in training. Their heart is back there and they haven't learned one thing since then.

Lk 17:31-32 is a warning to us. When we flee we have to remember Lot's wife. Verse 33 – "*Whoever seeks to save his life shall lose it, and whoever loses his life shall keep it.*"

**Abigail shel Yowceph** – I see how we have to entrust our lives to our Father. It's important for us to know who we're following and to understand what we're doing to bring about His kingdom to the earth so we won't look back in the day of testing. Because of forgiveness we don't have to dwell on the past,

but we can go forward, loving one another and doing His will. The worth of Messiah is greater than anything else we could look back to.

I don't know why Lot's wife looked back. She must have had things back there in Sodom – her futon or her antique dresser. We laugh at this, but these things have a hold on people. Maybe she had a vehicle she wanted to take. These things can have a hold on us, too. Looking back is the same as *longing*. Maybe it was her kitchen she wanted.

**Keli** – It is like the children of Israel in the wilderness. They looked back to Egypt when they were going through things instead of going through the suffering that is supposed to make us fit for the kingdom. If we're going through the "narrows" and we look back to an easier time we won't progress. We'll lose our focus – what our Master called us for. If we take our eyes off the goal we'll go down to the downward call.

Our Father saved us for the upward call, but Satan for the downward call.

**Keli** – Our Father wanted old Israel to be fit for the kingdom. But when they looked back it caused them to complain. It reminds me of the 11 ways of "self" in us that we learned about. That's what the "narrows" does. It brings us out and gets rid of "self." If we look back we're working against our Father.

**Baruch** – In the "narrows" a boat can hardly fit through. If you try to turn back you'll be shipwrecked. Israel shipwrecked when they got to a hard place. They forgot and said, "*Let's turn around.*" They started letting complaint come out of them.

**Yedidiyah** – The men of faith in Hebrews were men of persuasion. That's why our Father wants us to pay attention. He wants us to be fully persuaded in His love for us. The work of the Holy Spirit will do a deep persuasion in us about the city He's preparing for us. That's the only road worth traveling on. Shimshone wasn't fully persuaded or he wouldn't have given away the secret of his strength. But he became persuaded through discipline. I'm thankful our Father persuades us through discipline. I'm thankful our Father wants us to be persuaded now. Some people are persuaded about things. Sodomites try to convince people to be that way. Our Father wants to persuade us of His great love for us.

**Bakhirah** – Israel looked back to the days of leeks and forgot the slavery they had been in. In the desert they lost their perspective and became discontent with their circumstances. Their thinking got distorted. Sometimes we want to hold on to things when what we're going through will bring a change in us.

Entry into the kingdom is everything we're striving for, to enter the narrow gate. When we get there we don't want to hear, "*You can't enter here with those things. You can't bring them in here.*" You can't enter with an unforgiving heart, selfishness and other things. Heb 3:15 – "*While it's still called today.*" You can't see at night; you have to see in the daylight.

#### **Instruction about the Breaking of Bread**

**It's wonderful that we can come here every morning and evening to hear Him speak to us and give Him thanks and praise. The breaking of bread is different than the minchah. Our Father speaks to us here. In the breaking of bread He doesn't so much come to teach us, but we come to give Him thanks, to thank Him for what He has done for us. We address Him because He's with us, but it's not necessary to give a teaching. It's good that we share things about the story, but we keep it in the realm of being thankful for what we heard. I'm thankful for our Master. He's going to reveal to us the way He wants us to be in the breaking of bread and at our festivals. Now there's obstinacy in us and we have to be brought along. There are certain ones who don't want to – you can tell. But we have to go the way He's leading us by His Holy Spirit.**

**At the breaking of bread we say, 'How can I repay You ... We can call on our Master Yahshua.**

Sometimes you can hear people praying for those they've left behind, for their mother or father, sisters or brothers. But it's not so much a time for this. We call upon His name to repay Him. It's a renewal of our vows. We want to be those who *can* repay Him. It will take eternity to give Him a payment of praise and thanksgiving, to live for Him. "*Whoever calls upon the name of our Master will be saved.*"

Our Father wants every member of His Body to pray for the essential things. In 1 Tim 2, the first 8 verses

teaches us the things we need to pray for.